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Kejar Peringkat, Menuju Kemandirian Riset «**

WHAT IS TRANSLATION?

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When I decided to continue my study at S3 program, I'd rather take 'translation study' as my choice. It seemed to be quite interesting, because at that time besides it was a new department, it was still the only one in Indonesia. I

thought that that department would lead me to be a professional translator. Soon when the course had already been begun, I had just got to know that what I was wondering about was totally wrong. In that college I just got theories of translation focusing on how to analyze and asses the translation product. The main purpose of study is to know whether or not one product of translation is accurate, acceptable, and readable. Later I realized and knew that to produce the really qualified translation in accordance with those criteria required (accurate, acceptable, and readable) is not such an easy job. Some certain talent and other skills related to aspects of translation are urgently required. Due to this fact, the professional translators usually will tend to charge very high for their products of translation. Furthermore, one thing that the reader has to know is that the professionalism in language proficiency can also be classified into two. The first is practitioner (translator), that is someone whose main job is professionally to translate one language as a source text into another language as a target text. The second is academician, that is a person whose part of his jobs enables him to analyze and asses the translator's or practitioner's works based on the theories learnt.

Concerning with the explanation above, in this article the writer will share a little bit about the meaning of translation. Actually there are many definitions about translation, but here the writer

will only take some of them which seem to be close related to. Many linguists define translation in different ways although the meaning and purpose are relatively the same. Some of the definitions are stated by some linguists as follows: 1) Translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (source language) by equivalent textual material in another language (target language), (Catford, 1975: 20); 2) Translation is the general term referring to the transfer of thought and ideals from one language to another whether the language is in written or oral form, (Brislin ,1976: 1); 3) Translation is a process of finding a target language equivalent for a source language utterance, (Pinchuck, 1977); 4) Translation is the rendering of a source language text into the target language, so as to ensure that the surface meaning of the two languages will be approximately similar, and the structure of the source language will be preserved as closely as possible but not so closely that the target language structures will be seriously distorted, (Catford, 1980: 27).

Based on some definitions above, in general it can be concluded that translation refers to two different things which are related each other, that is the transfer of written message which is called 'translation', and oral or spoken message known as 'interpretation'. A person whose job is translating a certain written text of one language as a source text into another language as a target text is called 'translator'. Meanwhile, that of interpreting the spoken or oral language is called 'interpreter'. Moreover, the word 'translation' itself covers the process of message transfer, and the result of it is called 'translation'. Therefore, 'translation' might be said as the transfer process of the thought or ideals transfer from one language as a source text into another language as a target language.

As a written communication, translation is functioning to deliver the message from the source language into target language. Therefore,